

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seatbelt apparatus provided with a winder for winding a seatbelt comprising:

collision predicting means for predicting a collision with an object ~~of collision~~;

first winding control means for controlling the winder so as to wind the seatbelt at a first winding load when a collision is predicted by the collision predicting means;

~~emergency brake detecting means for detecting an emergency braking state~~
operation of a brake pedal; and

second winding control means for controlling the winder so as to wind the seatbelt at a second winding load which is larger than the first winding load when the ~~emergency braking state~~ brake pedal operation is detected by the emergency brake detecting means; and

collision avoidance detecting means for detecting avoidance of the collision with the object and for releasing control of the winder upon detection of the avoidance.

2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first winding control means is adapted to increase a winding load of the seatbelt by the winder to the first winding load from a moment when the collision is predicted by the collision predicting means at a first rising gradient, and the second winding control means is adapted to increase a winding load of the seatbelt by the winder to the second winding load from a moment when the ~~emergency~~

~~braking state~~ brake pedal operation is detected by the emergency brake detecting means at a second rising gradient which is larger than the first rising gradient.

3. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/100 ms.

4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/180 ms and smaller than 100 N/100 ms.

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second winding load is set to a value equal to or larger than 150 N.

6. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first winding load is set to a value between 80 N and 120 N inclusive.

7. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the collision predicting means continuously detects a length from the vehicle in question to the object of collision, and predicts the collision with the object of collision based on the detected length which varies with time.

8. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the emergency brake detecting means detects the ~~emergency braking state~~ brake pedal operation based on at least any one of a pressing amount, a pressing speed, and pressing force of the brake pedal and a brake hydraulic pressure.

9. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seatbelt apparatus provided with a winder for winding a seatbelt comprising:

collision predicting means for predicting a collision with an object ~~of collision~~;

first winding control means for controlling the winder so as to wind the seatbelt from a moment when the collision is predicted by the collision predicting means while increasing the winding load of the seatbelt at a first rising gradient;

emergency brake detecting means for detecting ~~an emergency braking state~~ a brake pedal operation; and

second winding control means for controlling the winder so as to wind the seatbelt while increasing the winding load of the seatbelt at a second rising gradient which is larger than the first rising gradient from a moment when the ~~emergency braking state~~ brake pedal operation is detected by the emergency brake detecting means; and.

collision avoidance detecting means for detecting avoidance of the collision with the object and for releasing control of the winder.

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/100 ms.

11. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/180 ms and smaller than 100 N/100 ms.

12. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the collision predicting means continuously detects a length from the vehicle in question to the object of collision and detects the collision with the object of collision based on the detected length which varies with time.

13. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the emergency brake detecting means detects the ~~emergency braking state~~ brake pedal operation based on at least any one of a pressing amount, a pressing speed, and pressing force of the brake pedal and a brake hydraulic pressure.

14-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) The vehicle seat apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the collision avoidance detecting means releases control of the winder based on at least

one of detecting steering operation by a vehicle driver, detecting stopping of the vehicle, and detecting passage of a period of time since operation of the first or second winding control means greater than a preset period of time.

20. (New) The vehicle seat apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the collision avoidance detecting means releases control of the winder based on at least one of detecting steering operation by a vehicle driver, detecting stopping of the vehicle, and detecting passage of a period of time since operation of the first or second winding control means greater than a preset period of time.